



Elect Experienced and Proven Leadership in 2011!

Tribal Voters:
Whenever a person decides to file for the office of Principal Chief, she/he needs to have leadership experience in tribal government. One does not serve without experiencing a “learning curve” and this office, having so much demand on the position, does not allow someone new to the position years to learn; thus the tribe becomes stagnated and does not move forward while she/he learns. The Principal Chief can be summoned to appear before courts; state, county, and local officials; other tribal officials; and maybe even before Congress. This person needs to be knowledgeable of current self-governance issues whenever called upon to speak for our Nation to protect our sovereignty. Remember what I said earlier about a “learning curve”; the Principal Chief needs to be ready to lead our tribe as soon as the election is over! A transitional period of new elected leadership takes months and everyone suffers, from governmental staff to tribal membership, so continuity is extremely vital to the continued operation of any government! Look at other tribes and see the problems encountered during the transition of leaders. The Sac and Fox Nation needs continuity of this leadership as mentioned earlier, so we can continue to move forward in developing the Economic Development Department of the tribal government to provide assistance to the Business Committee and economic entities of our tribe; the continuation of the planning and development of the Stroud “Tanger Mall” and Shawnee Casino properties; the continuation of the economic planning and development of our future, or as I refer to, our “Vision” for our people! The Business Committee has been meeting and discussing with Sauk Business Enterprises; City of Stroud officials; Garrett Moore Company, Dallas, TX; Oklahoma State Tourism Department; Oklahoma State Legislators; City of Shawnee officials; Southern Plains Regional Office BIA Indian Energy & Economic Development officials, Anadarko, OK; and consultants / lawyers. We have not publicly announced anything to our tribal membership for fear of misleading and/or building false hope, discussions are in the preliminary stages; negotiations are being conducted and meetings with these entities have been held and are being scheduled; and whenever something is definite you will be the first to be notified.

Experienced and Proven Leadership!

I have that experience, after being appointed unanimously by the Business Committee to fulfill the remaining term of the Secretary position; elected to two terms as Secretary; and one term as Principal Chief. You have allowed me to serve you since 2000 as Secretary and Principal Chief. Fulfilling the Secretary’s position allowed me to gain valuable experience by serving with many Business Committee members and learning with and from them, which helped prepare me for the Principal Chief’s office. The Sac and Fox Nation needs continuity of this leadership so we can continue moving forward as we have over the past ten years, not changing leaders every four years! Our elected leadership over the past ten years, of which I have been a Business Committee member, has developed the following for diversified economic development for our people: (3) casinos resulting in (6) per-capita payments of a total \$9,145.77 per individual (those who received all 6 payments) - 6 year total: \$32,720,242.25; updated laws / new ordinances; a Federal charter; land acquisition; created economic development entities; increased tax revenues; created an economic development department within the tribal government organizational chart; and increased the net income by - Investments - \$9,994,315 / Revenue - \$9,945,012 / Assets - \$13,613,153. The tribal membership has shown confidence that I possess the proven leadership needed for this office when electing me as Chief in 2007; and on the national level, tribal leaders have elected me to the following positions: Intertribal Monitoring Association (ITMA) Board Secretary; Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium (SGETC) Board Vice-Chairman / Secretary (2 terms); Self-Governance Advisory Committee (SGAC) Department of Interior (DOI) Southern Plains Alternate; Central Tribes Shawnee Area (CTSA) Board Vice-Chairman and Secretary. These tribal leaders comprising many Indian nations across Indian Country showed confidence that I possessed the proven leadership for these positions!

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish

A Nation grows stronger when built upon shared visions. As we begin to progress into the next decade, I once again reiterate that we need to have a “vision” of where our Sac and Fox Nation is headed and how we are to reach those goals. I know we are moving forward so I am asking for everyone to pray for guidance or direction from our Creator as to what He would have our Nation do to please Him and in return God will bless our People.

We enter a new decade in the history of our Sac and Fox Nation, so I would like to recap some of our accomplishments for the past year ten years. One of President Obama’s campaign slogans was “Yes we can!” Our Sac and Fox Nation can say, “Yes WE did!!!” Notice the WE meaning together and supporting each other as a sovereign nation, the way our ancestors did, accomplished the following: *Chapel *Veteran’s Memorial *Improved roads and bridges in our jurisdiction covering three counties *Improvements to our Capitol grounds including parking lots, buildings, water tower restoration, pavilions, playground equipment, RV Park, etc. *New ordinances and updated laws *New Rodeo Arena *New Federal Charter *Learning Center *Merle Boyd Center *Gymnasium *Sauk Language Program *Gaming (3) Casinos resulting in (6) per-capita payments of a total: \$9,145.77 per individual (those who received all 6 payments) / 6 years total - \$32,720,242.25 *New telephone system *Improvements to tribal cemeteries *Land acquisition *Constitutional amendments *Economic Development entities created, Sauk Business Enterprises and Sac and Fox Tribe, Inc. *Tobacco and Gaming Compacts entered into with State of Oklahoma *Tribal membership (enrollment) increase by 1,400 plus members *Net Income increase by Investments:

CHIEF THURMAN’S VISION
FOR OUR SAC AND FOX NATION

LET’S SHARE THAT VISION WITH OUR CHIEF
BY ELECTING HIM TO ANOTHER 4 YEAR TERM

A Nation grows stronger when built upon
Shared Visions!

VOTE AUGUST 27
GENERAL ELECTION

\$9,994,315 / Revenue: \$9,945,012 / Assets: \$13,613,153 *Police Department increase in number of officers and equipment including the completion of SFN Firearms Training Center *Development of Information Technology (IT) Department allowing so much advancement in technology to help us run and develop our tribal government. *Veteran’s Honor Guard and Women’s Auxiliary *Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) Department to administer services provided from our Gaming money *Distance Learning capabilities with MOU’s entered into with Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), Weatherford, Ok and Pawnee Nation College (PNC), Pawnee, Ok *Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Indian Block Grants (CDIBG) Grants resulting in Merle Boyd Center, Gymnasium, Learning Center, Lagoons, USDA Food Distribution Center, future Cultural Center *Progeny enrollment software implemented *USDA Food Distribution Center (store) located in Shawnee, OK *Indian Child Welfare (ICW) Title IV Planning Grant for 24 months for \$299,000 *Increased tax revenue:\$2,935,213.11 *New automobile tag registration system

I am very proud of the growth and advancement of our Sac and Fox Nation during this past ten years; having served with four different Business Committees, three separate administrations, and in two different positions, Secretary and Principal Chief. I am equally excited about our future; present and long-range for our children, grandchildren, elders, and our tribal membership that reside within our jurisdictional boundaries and across the U.S.! I want for you to proudly walk among society and proclaim that you are Sauk! We now face the challenge of a new decade and I am encouraging every tribal member to unite together as one Nation whenever we exercise our sovereignty in governing ourselves. As leaders in Indian Country that we are noted for, I remind you that we must have faith in our Creator, acknowledge His mercy, pray for forgiveness by grace daily, and thank God for the divine guidance provided to our Sac and Fox Nation during this next chapter of our history. Amen.

Communication

Communication is a tool used by a good leader to provide unity and share visions of future growth to his tribal members no matter where they may reside. Whenever and even before I took office as your Principal Chief, I proposed open communication and dialogue between the elected leadership and tribal members. I vowed to lead our Nation forward whenever I took my oath of office four years ago and I want you moving in that direction with your elected leadership. I want your input as to where we are going and your support in reaching the goals that we set together. This is our vision together. Phase one is open dialogue as I have encouraged tribal members to schedule appointments so that I can assure you of allocating enough time to sit down and discuss your concerns with you. I will still spend time to visit with you even if you just drop in to discuss your concerns, but sometimes other guests will be in my office discussing tribal matters and you may have to wait. Important telephone calls come in daily that can take up valuable time as well as telephone messages to return in addition to meetings with the public locally and nationally, so please try to schedule a visit before coming to the tribal complex. I have fulfilled phase two of that commitment by communicating through my monthly Sac and Fox News article of matters that may affect you personally on the local, state, and national levels. This communication reaches membership within our jurisdiction, statewide, and nationally; so no matter where you reside and if you receive our newspaper, I am providing dialogue to you.

Now with the innovative planning and budgeting of our Information Technology Department (IT), I have started with the month of July, 2011 a verbal communication on our tribal website. Let’s call this phase three as I am sharing pertinent information that could affect you within Indian Country; again reaching membership all over the world, as long as you have access to our website then you will have dialogue with your roots here at home on our reservation.

Informational meetings will be phase four to communicate with our membership on matters by reporting to you about what our tribal government is planning for your future; to listen to your ideas and suggestions; to offer information about our government; and to provide helpful information to our membership. This is developing a vision for our Sac and Fox Nation of which everyone shares; a vision that everyone working together will bring to fruition for the betterment of all our people.

One characteristic of a strong leader is to be able to listen to any concerns, ideas, problems, and dreams; then relate to those comments and work with an individual(s) to try and resolve the issue(s) or achieve those visions. Another characteristic, whenever soliciting support and votes in an election, is refusing to make promises to create false hope on your part or conducting a negative campaign against opponents! One does not take credit for any endeavor(s), because a person cannot accomplish anything without help and support of those surrounding them, and without the guidance of our almighty Creator. I have demonstrated these characteristics during my term and this election. A “team” effort will continue with my ability to work with the elected officials of the Business Committee, but please note that I will vote my conscience and voice my opinion whenever issues arise that may be controversial among any members of our tribe and with daily prayer, asking for mercy and grace for my people.

I have demonstrated proven leadership by working with your elected Business Committee; commissions/boards/committees; individuals; and governmental staff diplomatically and not “by demands of what the Chief wants”. I have compromised when needed to implement important decisions; dedication to my job by not leaving for vacation in eleven years; sacrificing time with my family after the regular work schedule to attend meetings; and always putting my tribal people first in my decisions. Our people have told me that they appreciate me taking a positive stance on controversial decisions that benefit our tribe as a whole and not allowing the negative influence by some affect the way I make my decisions. Please do not listen to the “rumor mill”, contact me so we can sit down and discuss openly any concern that you may have in regards to my decision making. I do not mislead our membership by reading into our Constitution what I want it to mean; I read and understand our Constitution by studying how our tribal court interprets and makes decisions in relation to our tribal Code of Laws and Indian law. Let’s continue moving forward collectively and not fall back; moving in the direction of my staff that I placed during my inauguration, forward !I have no hidden agenda; my continued effort to help our people will be at the forefront and all I ask of you is to let me lead our Nation with your help and support and to let the elected officials do their job to the best of their abilities.

I state once again that it is an honor and privilege to serve you as your Principal Chief. I am now asking you to allow me to continue serving you and continue leading our Sac & Fox Nation forward by casting your vote for me on August 27th. Aho! Sincerely,
George Thurman, Principal Chief

